

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been withdrawn from consideration. New Claims 11-14 have been added and Claims 6-10 remain unchanged.

Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda et al. (US Pat. No. 6,471,313).

Claim 6 recites a foam-filled hollow body comprising a wall having an opening formed therein, a reinforcing part having a hole formed therein and disposed with said hole overlapping said opening of said wall, a destructible layer disposed between said wall and said reinforcing part, said destructible layer *covering* said *wall opening* and said *reinforcing part hole*, said wall and said reinforcing part being connected to each other by a mechanical connection made without substantial heating of at least one of said wall and of said reinforcing part, which might damage said destructible layer, and a distance of said connection from said opening being sufficient that said destructible layer is secured against any substantial offsetting to uncover said wall opening or said reinforcing part hole and that an uncovering of said opening covered by said destructible layer by contact of said destructible layer with said connection is excluded.

Ueda et al. teaches a heat-insulated housing 1 having an inner box 3 is first put into the outer box 2. (See col. 8, lines 26-51) *Decorative frames* 6 are attached to the boxes so as to cover the surfaces of the bent portions except the corners of an opening 7. Reinforcements 14 are then mounted to the corners of the opening 7 respectively. A sponge rubber sheet 51 is *previously affixed* to the backside of each reinforcement 14. Each reinforcement 14 with the sheet 51 on the backside thereof is applied to the corresponding corner. Four *rivets* 15 are *driven through* respective *rivet holes* 55 of the reinforcement 14 *and the sponge rubber sheet 51* as shown in FIG. 23. Ueda et al. fails to teach or disclose a foam-filled hollow body having a destructible layer disposed between a wall and a reinforcing part, wherein the destructible layer *covers* the *wall opening* and the *reinforcing part hole*. The sponge rubber sheet 51 of Ueda et al. cannot possibly cover the rivet holes 55, since four rivets 15 are *driven through* them. While the sponge rubber sheet 51 may cover the rivet holes 55 *before* the rivets 15 are driven through them,

this intermediate structure of Ueda et al. would fail to teach or disclose a wall and a reinforcing part being *connected to each other by a mechanical connection*, as recited in Claim 6.

New claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 6 and recite additional limitations, such as having wherein the mechanical connection is formed *outside* of said wall opening or having the mechanical connection *not pierce* through the destructible layer where the destructible covers said wall opening. Additionally, new Claim 13 recites a mechanical connection formed *in said wall outside of said wall opening*. These additional limitations are also not taught or suggested by Ueda et al., since Ueda et al. specifically teaches four *rivets 15 driven through* respective *rivet holes 55* of the reinforcement 14 *and the sponge rubber sheet 51*.

For these and other reasons, the cited art does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claims 6 and 13. Therefore, Claims 6 and 13 are allowable. Claims 7-12 and 14 depend from Claims 6 and 13 and are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 1-14 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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